

Today's Martyrs
2014-08-31 through 2014-09-06



China

Zhao Junling (**UPDATE:** released on bail, trial on a charge of 'disrupting public order and interfering with official duties' scheduled for September 2014)

Zhang Cuijuan (aged 36, younger sister of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, trial on a charge of 'disrupting public order and interfering with official duties' scheduled for September 2014)

Date: August 23, 2014

Location: Nanle county, Henan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/henan-one-nanle-county-christian-church.html>

Brother Lin (spoke about the continuing cross demolitions - at least 231 churches have been affected - and the police monitoring of Chinese Christian internet chat rooms)

Date: August 15, 2014

Location: Yayang town, Taishun county, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/persecution-continues-churches-in.html>

Event UPDATE: Authorities detained 14 Christians on August 7 2014 in a crackdown on unregistered churches following the stabbing death of a woman in a McDonalds by members of the Church of the Almighty God cult

Luo Chungui

Ouyang Xinxiong

Date released: August 22, 2014

Fan Tianying (released on US\$1,300 bail)

Li Fenge (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Date: August 22, 2014

Location: Dongkou county, Hunan province

Hu Tousheng (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Date: August 23, 2014

Location: Longhui county, Hunan province

Sun Jue (released on bail)

Hu Qingxi (released on bail)

Luo Longyu (released on bail)

Date: August 27, 2014

Location: Longhui county, Hunan province

Liu Manxiu (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Deng Xuexiang (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Long Shijiang (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Zeng Weiqing (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Zeng Weigang (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Yin Shiting (released on US\$1,630 bail)

Date: August 27, 2014

Location: Dongkou county, Hunan province

Ning (reported on pressures on Christians "The [authorities] don't allow the church's worshippers to gather together, saying that our house church is not certified. They say we can gather together, but it must be at a Three-Self church...All together, there should be more than 10,000 worshippers in these counties. Now, they can only get together in threes or fives. The electricity for the worshippers was cut, and the eldest worshipper is 81. From Aug. 22 until [Sept. 2], more than a week has passed, and they have spent nights in darkness")

Yu (said "There is minor persecution on gatherings of small groups. They simply brand us whatever they can think of and call us an evil cult when they really should conduct an investigation before they say so")

Date: September 2, 2014

Location: Hunan province

Source [with photos]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/more-than-dozen-hunan-believers.html>

Zhang Lin (father of Zhang Anni, illegally interrogated by police on February 27, 2013, private possessions seized, 10 year old daughter removed from school and held alone in a room without food for over three hours; arrested on August 22, 2013 on a charge of assembling a crowd to disturb order in a public place, the 'crowd' was a gathering of fellow dissidents who assembled to aid his daughter after her detention; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 42 months' imprisonment)

Zhang Anni (daughter of Zhang Lin)

Date: September 5, 2014

Location: Bengbu, Anhui province

Source: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/school-09052014141700.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Event UPDATE: Three Assumptionist priests abducted on October 19, 2012 are reported to have been executed 'in the past two weeks' by Ugandan rebels for refusing to convert to Islam, report is based on recent large-scale executions by the rebels

Fr Anselme Wasikundi (reportedly **executed**)

Fr Edmond Bamutute (reportedly **executed**)

Fr Jean-Pierre Ndulani (reportedly **executed**)

Date reported: August 7, 2014

Source [with photo]: http://afrique.kongotimes.info/rdc/echos_provinces/7948-rdc-execution-sommaire-trois-pretres-nord-kivu-enlevés-mbau-adf-nalu-executes-chef-rebelle-jamil-mukulu.html



Egypt

Armia Kamel (mother's land seized by 'thugs', police initially took no action)

Date reported: August 31, 2014

Location: Al-Khanka, Qalyubia

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56574>

Atta Khalifa Atta (aged 45, abducted on the week prior to July 29, 2014 while returning home from work; ransom of US\$28,000 paid before August 11, 2014, not released; **UPDATE**: still not released)

Youssef Khalifa (brother of Atta Khalifa Atta, reported on attempts to secure his brother's release)

Date: September 2, 2014

Location: Deir Mawas, Minya

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56600>

Fr Eilia Shafik (reported that three houses owned by Copts were burned down in a sectarian attack)

Date: September 4, 2014

Location: Al-Taiaba village, Samalout, Minya province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56636>

Michael Nassem (Father of Logy, lost custody of his 3 year old daughter after his wife converted to Islam)

Logy (aged 3, daughter of Michael Nassem)

Date reported: September 5, 2014

Location: Alexandria

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56646>



India

Rev Joseph Wilson (one of ten pastors detained and interrogated on suspicion of making illegal conversions, said "In the many years I have never seen this kind of communal tension. We are not even being able to get close to Surajpur police station. Some members of our church, who went there, were beaten up" by villagers incited by the RSS Hindu paramilitary group)

Date: August 31, 2014

Location: Kulesra village, Surajpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-false-accusations-of-forced-conversions-used-to-intimidate-Christian-minority-32048.html>

Fr Ligo Mathew (school headmaster beaten for 'insulting students' by sympathizers of the Hindu BJP party, sentenced to 14 days' detention, bail denied, office vandalized, teachers who came to his aid also beaten)

Archbishop Victor Henry Thakur (protested the attack on Fr Ligo Mathew and his teachers)

Date: September 2, 2014

Location: Khursipar village, near Raipur, Chhattisgarh state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/36258-ASIA_INDIA_Catholic_school_headmaster_beaten_and_detained_on_false_charges#.VAhDzsLwsfg

Antu Ram (paid US\$33 to avoid having his home burned down by Hindu extremists, home burned down anyway, family including three children and elderly parents now live under a plastic sheet)

Date reported: September 2, 2014

Location: Kue Mari village, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/735>

Sajan K George (President of the Global Council of Indian Christians, **UPDATE**: reported on demonstrations by non-Christian parents against a school uniform logo depicting Mary at a Catholic school that he charged was orchestrated by "the ultra-nationalist Hindu groups, who want to create distrust and disharmony among the different communities...Mary is revered by all Indians, irrespective of their religion. Many non-Christians make pilgrimages to Marian shrines, and this makes what happened even more shocking")

Date: September 3, 2014

Location: Indabettu village, Karnataka state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka,-Hindu-radicals-against-Catholic-school:-Do-not-Christianize-the-uniform-32071.html>



Iran

Pastor Behnam Irani (**UPDATE**: reportedly has been charged with 18 new offenses, including 'spreading corruption on Earth' which carries the death penalty)

Date: September 4, 2014

Location: Karaj Central Prison

Event: Five Christians reported to have been detained in a police raid

Mohammad Taslimi

Hamidreza Borhani (husband of Zainab Akbari)

Zainab Akbari (wife of Hamidreza Borhani)

Moluk Ruhani (sister of Sepideh)

Sepideh Morshedi (sister of Moluk Ruhani)

Date: September 4, 2014

Location: Isfahan

Source: <http://www.bosnewslife.com/33689-iran-evangelical-pastor-facing-death-penalty>



Iraq

Event: elderly couple unable to flee ISIL due to age and illness, forced at gunpoint to flee

Najib (aged 75, husband of Dalal, feet injured from walking, may have gangrene)

Dalal aka Delilah (aged 72, wife of Najib, passed out while walking in the 113 degree heat)

Date: August 7, 2014

Location: Baghdede

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20140829171511.htm>

Salem Matti Kourki (aged 43, **beaten to death** by ISIL militants after refusing to convert to Islam)

Date: September 1, 2014

Location: Bartala

Fadi Nabil Ibrahim Abbush (aged 20, accounting major, **killed by a car bomb**)

Msgr Pius Qasha Khoury (reported on the murder of Fadi Nabil Ibrahim Abbush)

Date: September 1, 2014

Location: Bagdad

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-man-tortured-and-killed-by-Islamic-State-militants-for-refusing-to-convert-to-Islam-3204"6.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-man-tortured-and-killed-by-Islamic-State-militants-for-refusing-to-convert-to-Islam-3204)

Rwaa (fled her home after the ISIL takeover, said "We fled last night, actually at 3 a.m. in the morning. We were at home when someone came and told us to, 'Leave! Leave!' We left with our clothes only. We didn't even take our passports. And we have no place to go because no one wants us here. They took everything from us... They took the women. They raped them. They are selling them. For God Sakes, they are selling them! What century are we?")

Date reported: August 8, 2014

Location: Qaraqosh

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20140904184757.htm>

Abu Mustafa (aged 50, wife killed, three daughters have cerebral atrophy, converted to Christianity while in a refugee camp)

Date reported: September 5, 2014

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/iraq-crisis-people-accepting-christ-all-the-more-despite-humanitarian-crisis/>



Italy

Fr Luigi Ciotti (life threatened by a Mafia boss for his anti-crime activities)

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco (**UPDATE**: signed a letter giving full support to Fr Luigi Ciotti)

Date: September 1, 2014

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/italian-bishops-support-priest-threatened-by-mafia-33882/>



Lebanon

Fr Samir Hajjar (pro-ISIL graffiti scrawled on his church)

Fr Ibrahim Surouj (library torched on January 3, 2014 after a pamphlet allegedly insulting Islam was found, two-thirds of the 80,000 books and manuscripts were destroyed; **UPDATE**: remarked about ISIL designs on his country “If we say that Christians are not worrying, we wouldn’t be telling the truth”)

Michel Akari (said "Christians are facing a real threat")

Bassam (Security Forces member, said “There are a lot of people who are standing with them [ISIL]”)

Joseph Yarouck (Catholic school director, said “Many Muslims are worried about these guys [ISIL]. There is no tolerance with them”)

Date: August 2, 2014

Location: Tripoli

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/73351.htm>



Liberia

Dr Rick Sacra (aged 51, missionary, contracted Ebola, is expected to arrive in Nebraska for treatment)

Date: September 4, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/healthscience/2014/September/Third-American-Sick-Window-to-Stop-Ebola-Closing/>



Mali

Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Yattara (Baptist Church president, said that the UN has helped rebuild mosques damaged in the 2013 jihadi attacks but not the churches)

Date: September 2, 2014

Source: https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3331381.html/



Pakistan

Event: Unnamed Christian arrested for blasphemy, five person legal team in transit

Joseph Francis

Katherine Sapna

Rama Rasheed

Sohail Habel

Hunny Bashir

Date: September 3, 2014

Location: Samandri district, Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4950>

Naja Masih (aged 60, school janitor, husband of Nargis Bibi, father of Yaqoob, Ashraf, Anwar, and Sunny, arrested on blasphemy charges, bail denied, family fled from their home)

Nargis Bibi (wife of Naja Masih, mother of Yaqoob, Ashraf, Anwar, and Sunny, in hiding)

Yaqoob (aged 30, child of Naja Masih and Nargis Bibi, in hiding)

Ashraf (aged 28, child of Naja Masih and Nargis Bibi, in hiding)

Anwar (aged 26, child of Naja Masih and Nargis Bibi, in hiding)

Sunny (aged 24, child of Naja Masih and Nargis Bibi, in hiding)

Fr Yaqoob John (reported on the arrest of Naja Masih "Our sources have confirmed that the accusations are false")

Date: August 23, 2014

Location: Islamabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Punjab:-after-a-Christian-man-is-falsely-accused-of-blasphemy,-his-family-flees-32067.html>

Anwar Bhatti (nurse, husband of Mariam Anwar, father of Amarus Bhatti and Arisha Bhatti, fled from their home of 20 years after ripped Quran pages were planted on their property and after their Muslim neighbors defended them against blasphemy charges, recounted a long history of persecution and expressed hope to leave the country)

Mariam Anwar (wife of Anwar Bhatti, mother of Amarus Bhatti and Arisha Bhatti)

Amarus Bhatti (daughter of Anwar Bhatti and Mariam Anwar)

Arisha Bhatti (daughter of Anwar Bhatti and Mariam Anwar)

Date: June 13, 2014

Location: Karachi

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4952>



Sudan

Sam Onapa (Ugandan citizen, expelled from the country)

Date: August 9, 2014

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/sudan-shutters-500-member-church-in-khartoum/>



Sweden

Mona Walters (convert from Islam, threatened with death, has gone into hiding with a new identity)

Date reported: August 1, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://www.dagen.se/nyheter/gar-under-jorden-efter-islamkritik/>



Ukraine

Captain Ruslan Zuyev (Salvation Army, fled due to repeated interrogations by Russian FSB agents)

Date: June 2014

Location: Crimea

Fr Bogdan Kostetsky (repeatedly questioned by Russian FBS agents, including on the subject of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky who died in 1944 and who had been the author of a 1900 sermon that was banned in Russia in 2013, seized along with 15 parishioners by undisclosed persons, released)

Fr Nikolai Gavrilyuk (reported on the interrogations of Fr Bogdan Kostetsky)

Date: September 2, 2014

Location: Yalta, Crimea

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1992



United Kingdom

Margaret Jones (aged 54, registrar, fired for stating that she could not in conscience officiate a same sex wedding, reinstated)

Date: September 1, 2014

Location: Bedford

Source [with photo]: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/victory-for-christian-registrar-dismissed-for-refusing-to-conduct-sam>



United States - Indiana

Fr Doug Marcotte (reported on the 'Quran 3:151' graffiti which appeared on his church, two other churches also targeted)

Date: August 31, 2014

Location: Columbus

Source: <http://fox59.com/2014/08/31/columbus-community-condemns-graffiti-left-on-three-local-churches/>



Uzbekistan

Artur Alpayev (husband of Irina Alpayev; **UPDATE**: home raided by police without warrant during a worship service, Christian books seized, mother expelled back to Israel)

Irina Alpayev (wife of Artur Alpayev; **UPDATE**: home raided by police without warrant during a worship service, Christian books seized)

Gulya Solyanov (wife of Sergei Solyanov, Russian citizen, detained while visiting Artur and Irina Alpayev, expelled back to Russia)

Sergei Solyanov (husband of Gulya Solyanov, Russian citizen, detained while visiting Artur and Irina Alpayev, expelled back to Russia)

Nikolai Serin (husband of Larisa Serin; **UPDATE**: detained while visiting Artur and Irina Alpayev, home later raided by police without warrant, Christian books, Bible and laptop seized)

Larisa Serin (wife of Nikolai Serin; **UPDATE**: detained while visiting Artur and Irina Alpayev, home later raided by police without warrant, Christian books and Bible seized)

Date: August 17, 2014

Location: Navoi

Pastor Stanislav Kim (father of Valeri Kim, home raided by police during a volleyball game, 15 friends detained for four hours, may face charges)

Valeri Kim (son of Pastor Stanislav Kim, may face charges)

Stanislav Pak (detained by police during a raid on the home of Pastor Stanislav Kim, held for four hours)

Vladimir Kovalchuk (detained by police during a raid on the home of Pastor Stanislav Kim, held for four hours)

Igor Li (detained by police during a raid on the home of Pastor Stanislav Kim, held for four hours)

Date: August 2, 2104

Location: Chirchik, Tashkent region

Zokir Rajabov (fined US\$200 for 'illegally' sharing his faith, claims the charge was fabricated)

Date: June 5, 2014

Location: Kushkupir district, Khorezm region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1991

Valentina Razzakova (home raided by police during a worship service, Christian books seized)

Date: July 23, 2014

Location: Khalkabad village, Pap district, Namangan region

Pastor Arkadiy Belik (**UPDATE**: believed to be the subject of an upcoming administrative case by the authorities after the church summer camp was raided)

Date: July 30, 2014

Location: Bostanlyk

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1993



Vatican City

Pope Francis aka Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ (**UPDATE**: security upgraded after ISIL threats against his life reported)

Date: September 3, 2014

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/security-of-pope-francis-increased-over-alleged-isis-plot-to-kill-him/>

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